



May 13, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

Various developments of this past week have us feeling we are moving into a new phase, and able to start planning for the wind down of some of our pandemic efforts.

New cases are again on the decline – 166 in the last week (total 17,734). This is the lowest weekly case growth we've seen in more than two months. One new death was reported (total 303), though this was another late-reported death that actually occurred last February.

Vaccine updates:

The demand for vaccines also is dropping, which is unfortunate. We expect to see a small boost with this week's approval of the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds. We will begin vaccinating this younger group at our Public Health clinics next week. Many other vaccine administrators have already started. We are advising people to again check with their medical provider or pharmacy, or register through [the state's vaccine connector](#) to find the soonest appointment.

As of May 11, a total of 102,825 people in St. Louis County have received their first dose of a vaccine; and 92,231 people have completed their series.

Loosening of restrictions:

The CDC today announced new recommendations for fully vaccinated people – including more examples indoors when masks and social distancing are no longer necessary. We're still waiting for MDH to weigh in on this. But it's another example of the growing confidence in the vaccines and their ability to protect people.

Late last week, MDH and Governor Walz announced a series of changes as restrictions are lessened. [This weekly recap provides a lot of detail](#) about those changes. Scroll to the bottom of the page and you will find links with updated guidance for many types of businesses and organizations that you may find useful.

With each passing week, I remain so thankful for your continued partnership. As always, please reach out to me with any questions you have or are hearing about COVID or the vaccine. I'm available by phone/email Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm to help.

Raymond Jobe
Public Health Liaison
St. Louis County
jober@stlouiscountymn.gov
Cell: 218-260-5513

Looking for accurate, up to date COVID-19 information? Find it here:

[Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[St. Louis County COVID-19 online dashboard](#)
